

Manx Retirement Association
Annual General Meeting
Monday 28/4/25 - 10.00am
Onchan Pensioners Hall

MINUTES

1. **Welcome**- Director Mr Howard Parkin MBE welcomed members to the 2025 AGM of the Manx Retirement Association. He introduced all the committee members to everyone present and asked that members had signed the register.
2. **Apologies** -a list of those members who couldn't attend was taken together with the **Register**
3. **Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes** -these had been circulated to members though rather late and it was noted that we should send them out beforehand so that members had more time to read them. The 2024 Minutes were adopted by those present. Proposed by Jeff Campbell and seconded by Keith Glover
4. **Director's Report.** Members were asked to stand for one minute silence to remember those members who had passed since we last met. Howard had been in post as Director since 2015 and would be stepping down though still remaining on the Committee. Mr Jim Cottier had been nominated to take his place. The name of Director would be changed to that of Chairman to fit in with Charitable status of the Association. **See attached report**
5. **Treasurer's Report** Members had been issued with a spread sheet of expenditure and receipts for members to review. Mr Jeff Campbell discussed how the receipts and expenditures of our accounts had been accrued. Most of our funding had come from Membership fees and Fund Raising events. It was noted that we need to get our reserves back up to that of pre Covid and the cost cutting measures of going to Bi Monthly Islander had saved us over £3k. It was decided not to increase the subscription fees for 2026. **See attached report**
6. **Reports from Trustees re activities and events**
 - **Flat green indoor bowling** held at the NSC- Mr Neil Corlett gave a brief outline of how the season had gone. A winter and spring event was held over two 10 week sessions. It had been pretty well supported most Thursday afternoons and enjoyed by all who took part. There was a prize presentation held at Pulrose Golf club attended by over 30 members We need at least 20 members to take part to break even. Thankfully we achieved this and even made a profit for the MRA. The next winter session has been booked and starts on 9th October.
 - **Fundraising and Marketing** : Ann Cottier gave a brief outline of how Fundraising events had gone. Since taking up this role we have managed to raise nearly £5,000 for the MRA funds. The Co op Community grant had given

us £500 towards activities with another £500 due in November. 81 of our members had signed up to support our cause which would generate 1p in every £1 spent at the Co op. We now have 5 fundraising events each year as well as running a trade stall at Tynwald and the Southern Show.

- Debbie has taken over running the **lunches** and we have them all booked up to include a Christmas Lunch at the Empress.
- **Whist** – John Wilkinson stated that this activity is very popular and generally has 30 members playing each week. Debbie's supply of homemade cakes are always a welcome addition to the afternoon.
- **Discount booklet** – Chris Blyth stated that members need to use their discount booklet with local companies or we will lose their support. Details of all those companies offering members discount can be found on the Website.
- **Rummykub** – Ceila Marshal informed members that we could no longer meet at the Cat with no Tail as the room was busy with pub meals since their refurbishment so Rummykub classes would continue to be held at Hawden Court. It was agreed to give them a donation of £10 per session to offset heating and the use of their community room. Numbers were up with 28 members in regular attendance including some of their residents.
- A **Beetle Drive** was arranged to be held in late October
- **Fairweather Walks** – Sally Farrell who organised the walks said it was very much dependent on the weather but those who took part really enjoyed them.
- **Stetch and Flex** organised by David Farrell continue to be run on a Thursday at the NSC offering gentle exercise for those who attended. Numbers did fluctuate at times so it was important that it continued to be well attended so as not to make a loss to the MRA funds.
- **Mah Jong** continues to take place on the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month and after the summer break Isobel Buttery would be taking over the organising of this event.
- **Theatre Trips** : Adele Towns would continue to organise the Theatre visits
- **Website** – Mr Jim Cottier had taken over the running of this and was keeping it up to date. Our new Administrator Alex Munier would be creating a new Facebook page as the old one was now defunct. Being at the helm of both the Douglas and Ramsey Coffee mornings. Jim and Ann Cottier continue to run the Southern Coffee morning held in the Garrison Pub in Castletown.
- **Coffee mornings**: Numbers fluctuated this year but continue to provide a social get together for members. As from October Nancy Phillip would be running the Ramsey Coffee mornings. Many thanks to Barbara Mason for running both the Ramsey and Douglas event with Debbie Lace and Irene. Ann and Jim Cottier would continue to run the Southern one held in the Garrison pub in Castletown.

7. Confirmation of the **subscription** for year commencing 1/1/26. These would remain as they are for the forthcoming year. Proposed by Sandra Parkin and seconded by Lesley Nicols.
8. Confirmation of appointment of **accounts over view** for 2025 given by Jeff Campbell. Proposed by Barbara Mason and seconded by John Cuddy.

9. Election of Trustees, Chairman, and deputy chairman-

Mr Jim Cottier was proposed as the new Chair by Howard Parkin and seconded by Sally Farrell. The name of Director was dropped in keeping with the Charity regulations to that of Chairman. Howard would be staying on committee as Vice Chair.

Debbie Lace and Ken Horsley were stepping down from Committee but would still continue their roles within the MRA. Currently we have 272 members.

10. Any other business Mr Jim Cottier gave a vote of thanks to Neil Corlett for organising and winning the Indoor Bowling and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. A certificate of appreciation was also awarded to outgoing Director Mr Howard Parkin for his 10 year tenure and was also made a life member.

Last years AGM mins were only given out at this meeting so it was agreed to send them out to members prior to the AGM so that they would have time to read them. Proposed by Ceila Mashal and seconded by Jim Cottier.

